

PARENT SUMMIT ON EDUCATION
Sponsored by: Utah's Office of Ethnic Affairs
January 5, 2008
Sheraton City Centre

DATA SUMMARY

The Parent Summit on Education was held on January 5, 2008 at the Sheraton City Centre. Approximately 80 parents, community leaders, educators and the Office of Ethnic Affairs (OEA) staff attended. Jesse Soriano, Director of OEA, gave a welcome and greeting. Dr. Forrest Crawford, Co-Chair, welcomed all the attendees. Dr. Linda K. Oda, Co-Chair, discussed the purpose, goal and objectives of the Parent Summit. Dr. Ann F. Millner, President of Weber State University, facilitated a discussion on the structure and ground rules of the Summit.

All participants were released to go to break-out rooms designated as follows: American Indian Parent Participants, Asian, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino and Pacific Islander. The Facilitators for the break-out sessions were: Dr. Chuck Foster (Utah State Office of Education), Cyndee Miya (Davis School District), Jacqueline Thompson (Davis School District), Jim Santiago Sandoval (Clearfield Job Corps) and Charlene Lui (Granite School District).

A Parent Summit Evaluation Form was provided in the participants' packets. Nineteen respondents turned in their forms. In retrospect, it is recommended that to receive higher numbers of returned forms, one or more of the following actions could have taken place:

1. Participants are reminded to submit their evaluation forms at the end of the Summit.
2. OEA staff members distribute them before participants leave for the day.
3. OEA staff members approach and encourage participants to turn in their forms.
4. A reward, such as a piece of candy, is given to every participant for turning in their form.

The data from the evaluation forms that were turned in were analyzed. The following are the findings:

- Item #1: Value of the General Session
 90% - Excellent and Very Good
 10% - Good
- Item #2: Value of the Break-Out Sessions
 100% - Excellent and Very Good
- Item #3: Overall value and usefulness of the Summit
 95% - Excellent and Very Good
 5% - Good

Item #4: Facility
84% - Excellent and Very Good
6% - Good

Item #5: Food
89% - Excellent and Very Good
11% - Good

Item #6: Organization
95% - Excellent and Very Good
5% - OK

The following is the Summary of the Five Parent Groups facilitated by Dr. Ann Millner:

SUMMARY OF THE FIVE PARENT GROUPS
(American Indian, Asia, Black, Hispanic and Pacific Islander)
Facilitated By
Dr. Ann Millner

Question # 1: What are the ways to empower parents to assist in their child's education?

- A. Parent Communication
 - Meetings
 - Training
 - Early and often
 - Mentor Program
 - Translation
 - Newsletter
 - Email
 - Website
 - Expectations
 - Front Office Welcoming
- B. Parent Advocate/Resource Person
- C. Parent Network
Voices heard
- D. Higher Education Pathway

Question #2: How can the schools meet your/the child's needs?

- A. Cultural Competence for each group of school personnel
 - Training

- B. Parents understanding school culture
- C. Welcoming/inclusive/safe/caring environment for students and parents
- D. Multicultural Curriculum
- E. Inform parents of school resources – early and often, e.g. tutoring, language translator

Question #3: What barriers get in the way of successfully educating your/the child's needs?

- A. Student profiling/stereotyping/harassment/racism/unwelcoming environment
Lack of enforcement of policy
Lack of school wide expectations of policy unclear for inclusive environment
- B. Communications/Expectations of students and parents
 - Student performance
 - Involvement
- C. Curricular Issues
 - Multicultural sensitivity
 - Corrections of inaccuracy in texts, etc.
- D. Discipline parity in schools
- E. Large classroom sizes
- F. Inadequate teacher preparation in Teacher Education Programs
 - Cultural Competence
 - ESL/ELL Training
- G. Mental Health Barriers
- H. Student fees in schools

Question #4: How can we work together in a more unified way?

- A. Build parent networks/expanded opportunities to be involved/build ongoing Dialogue
 - Cross cultural group collaboration
 - Focus on educating/holistic mode
- B. Train parent advocates – to advocate for each other
- C. Get involved with school boards/school administration

- D. More people of color in our schools

After analyzing the actual parent responses from each group, the following are additional summary data to Dr. Millner's Summary:

Question # 1: What are the ways to empower parents to assist in their child's education?

- A. Parents working with the Administration
- B. Build personal relationships with ethnic minority families
- C. Provide incentives for parents to participate in school issues and activities
- D. Provide language services, if needed

Question #2: How can the schools meet the child's needs?

- A. Informing parents of school wide expectations, e.g. behavioral, curricular, etc.
- B. Volunteer programs for parents
- C. Student mentor programs

Question #3: What barriers get in the way of successfully educating the child?

- A. Access to advanced programs, e.g. gifted and talented, AP, IB courses
- B. Tracking students, e.g. graduation, attendance, etc.
- C. Community disconnect

Question #4: How can we work together in a more unified way?

- A. Connect with faith based communities/community organizations/ethnic minority organizations

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Linda K. Oda
Director
Office of Asian Affairs